

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Y.O.U. National Essay Contest (Please Announce)

This year the theme for the Essay Contest revolves around the "family." The title is at the author's discretion. As usual, the essay must be an original work written during the activity year. A parent or guardian must sign the essay to verify that it is an original work. Essays MUST be typewritten, double-spaced, and be a minimum of three typewritten pages or a maximum of four. The author's age should also be included next to his or her name. All entries should be sent to the Y.O.U. Office and postmarked no later than December 31.

There will be both a senior and junior division this year. Prizes for the senior division are:

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| First place | \$100 |
| Second place | \$50 |
| Third place | \$25 |

Prizes for the junior division are:

| | |
|--------------|------|
| First place | \$50 |
| Second place | \$25 |
| Third place | \$10 |

Y.O.U. International Exchange Program (Please Announce)

Those interested in applying for the Y.O.U. International Exchange Program should do so no later than January 31, 1983. For details and application forms, please contact the Y.O.U. Office in Pasadena.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach:

Before any more time passes, my wife and I want to sincerely thank you for making possible the second Ministerial Refreshing Program. We were privileged to attend just prior to the Feast of Tabernacles and came away with a much better perspective of our role in God's Work. The tour of Mail Processing, Mr. Matthews' and Mr. Hulme's presentations on the Work, and your personal message, Mr. Armstrong, all helped to give us a clear focus on how small we are and how great this Work is, of which we can be a part.

We were also more impressed than ever by quality everywhere we looked. The College, the Church and this entire Work have been

built with such quality that being in Pasadena helps us to lift up our eyes and our goals to meet those higher standards.

Gary and Marsi Pendergraft

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Greetings from Singapore. My wife and I recently returned here after attending the seventh session of the Second Refreshing Programme. Once again, the classes were inspiring and very helpful. A couple of years ago you wrote to the Church admonishing us to see God's Work as a worldwide Work and not as separate operations scattered around the globe.

The Refreshing Programme has provided a tremendous opportunity for bridges to be built between ministers serving in all parts of the world. I'm sure we've all been able to return to our respective Churches with a better understanding and appreciation of the scope of God's Work and the circumstances and problems brethren experience from day to day in diverse parts of the world.

Thank you for the Refreshing Programme and all the fruits and benefits it has produced for God's Church.

Colin and Beverly Kelly

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

Calls Taken by WATS Volunteers Surpass the 100,000 Mark

Volunteers manning the WATS lines during the 1982 Feast of Tabernacles answered some 25,000 calls. This raises the total number of calls taken by Sabbath and Festival volunteers to 120,000 since March, 1981 when the program began. Had there not been "live" operators to take these calls during the Feast, 40% or more would have been lost.

Hundreds of brethren from the Southern California area, as well as from across the U.S. and around the world, served as volunteer WATS operators during the Feast. It was a unique opportunity for which they expressed their appreciation. Their willing service and sacrifice has saved the Work thousands of dollars.

Record Weekend WATS Responses for 1982

The following five telecasts produced the highest number of calls on the first weekend they aired:

| <u>Program</u> | <u>No. of Calls</u> |
|--|---------------------|
| "Revelation: Catastrophic Event" | 10,468 |
| "The Scarlet Colored Beast" | 10,288 |
| "The Plain Truth About Easter, Part I" | 10,283 |
| "Mideast Special, Part II" | 8,900 |
| "The Coming Four Horsemen" | 8,897 |

Bible prophecy concerning the United States and the rest of the world in the near future generally kindles the greatest viewer response.

Six New Booklets Being Added to Inventory

The following six brand-new booklets are being added to Mail Processing's literature inventory:

1. WHAT SCIENCE CAN'T DISCOVER ABOUT THE HUMAN MIND
2. IS THERE LIFE AFTER DEATH?
3. DID GOD CREATE A DEVIL?
4. HUMAN NATURE--DID GOD CREATE IT?
5. WORLD PEACE--HOW IT WILL COME
6. YOUR INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL--AND HOW RELIGION KEPT IT FROM YOU

Approximately 150,000 copies of each will be printed. This will bring the number of different booklets in stock to 46.

Thanks for Your Help!

The Mail Processing Center would like to take this opportunity to give a hearty THANKS to the nearly 800 brethren who assisted with the Holy Day offerings. Over 90,000 offering envelopes were processed at the 16 U.S. sites during the Feast of Tabernacles. This work done at each site not only saves Mail Processing many hours of labor, but also helps to make funds available for immediate use in God's Work.

"Behind the Work, 1982" Inspires Brethren

The film, "Behind the Work, 1982," was a major highlight of the Feast. Brethren were thrilled to have the opportunity of viewing Mr. Armstrong and other personnel carrying out their day-to-day responsibilities at the Headquarters of God's Work. Following are a few comments from the many letters written about this year's film.

The highlight of our Feast was the film, "Behind the Work." Seeing you, Mr. Armstrong, sitting behind your desk in your office actually doing the Work was so inspiring to us. We just want to say, "We love you," and "Thank you"! It was moving to see you working with the various departments, especially when you picked up the telephone in the WATS line area.

We now have a visual picture in our minds of you working in your office. I think it was the first time some brethren saw your office in Pasadena. All who saw the film can better appreciate the work you do and be more fervent in their prayers.

Mr. & Mrs. D.S. (Rochester, NY)

I really appreciated and was inspired by seeing the "behind the scenes activity" going on in God's Work. I didn't realize how many departments there are and how the managers interface with Mr. Armstrong. These films ("Behind the Work" and "The Young Ambassadors") were a large part of what made this truly the "greatest Feast ever"!

Mrs. S.S. (Alamosa, CO)

I would like to let you know how much I enjoyed the "Behind the Work" film. It gave me a much better understanding of the amount of work done to get the Word of God out to the world.

R.W. (Pasadena, CA)

Thank you very much for all the work you and others did to make this Feast so enjoyable for us. In particular, I am referring to your sermons and the film, "Behind the Work, '82." It was a real privilege to see the Work's decision-making processes in action.

C.E. (Darlington, SC)

The film about God's great Work was an absolutely perfect blessing from our heavenly Father. It truly was the answer to all my prayers for God's true Church. I will keep on praying for you, the Church and the brethren.

Thank you very much for your inspiration and truly inspiring example to everyone worldwide. We all love you very much.

A.W. (Gainesville, FL)

Thank you for the film showing the Work and giving one so much understanding about what it takes to get the Gospel to the world. My sincere thanks, love, and regard for the one who helped bring all this about--Mr. Armstrong. I continue to pray for him.

M.G. (Madison, FL)

I'm writing especially to tell you how very much I appreciated and enjoyed the two films....I saw just what I wanted to see in your "day at the office." God is indeed giving you the strength and knowledge to guide us all. You are most assuredly an inspiration to me and I will continue to pray for your health and comfort.

V.M. (Au Sable Forks, NY)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

SWIFT CHANGE OF POWER IN THE SOVIET UNION: WHAT IT COULD MEAN

DATELINE: ATHENS, GREECE (November 15, 1982): The night before Mr. Armstrong's party was to leave Nairobi, Kenya, came the sudden announcement of the death of Leonid Brezhnev, the President and the Communist Party General Secretary of the Soviet Union. His death occurred sometime between 8 and 9 o'clock Wednesday morning, November 10.

The death of Mr. Brezhnev, 75, had been long expected. He had suffered from a variety of illnesses for a long time, nevertheless, it still came as somewhat of a surprise. Only three days earlier on Sunday, November 7, Mr. Brezhnev had delivered a tough speech from the Kremlin denouncing Western, especially American, military policies, promising to "crush" any attacks from the so-called imperialists.

Far more surprising than Mr. Brezhnev's demise was the swift accession to power, before the week was out, of his successor. The party's new General

Secretary--the top political office in the U.S.S.R.--is Yuri Vladimirovich Andropov, age 68, one of the two candidates (the other being Konstantin Chernenko) long-rumored for the leading role.

It is not known now whether Mr. Andropov will also assume Mr. Brezhnev's other office, the largely ceremonial role of President. It is likely that during the early stage of Andropov's career, until he further consolidates his power, this office will go to someone else.

It is significant that the honor of announcing the new leader went to Mr. Chernenko, thus indicating an attempt on the part of the hierarchy of Soviet power to close ranks around the new leader in a public display of unity. Also significant is the fact that in his speech, Mr. Chernenko stressed that it was now "twice, three times more important to conduct party affairs collectively." This was seen as a clear reminder to Mr. Andropov of the principle of collective leadership, a policy refined during Mr. Brezhnev's 18 years of rule.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Andropov took a tough line. He backed up a call for hard work at home, in order to spur the stagnant Soviet economy, with an uncompromising message for the West, similar to his predecessor's message only a few days before. "We know full well," he said, "the imperialists will never meet one's pleas for peace. It can be upheld only by resting on the invincible might of the Soviet Armed Forces."

Mr. Andropov's Background

There is much more than mere toughness to Mr. Andropov's character (and even then his toughness lacks the gruff, uncultured tone of some of his predecessors). Yuri Andropov has worked with intense dedication for his country's interests through his years of service, beginning in 1936. Few top Soviet leaders have the multi-faceted experience he possesses in the fields of both domestic and foreign policy.

Andropov was born June 15, 1914 in a little Cossack town in the north Caucasus. It is almost certain that one of his maternal grandparents was Jewish. Rumor has it that his mother was entirely Jewish. Stories also abound that he has considerable Armenian blood. Researchers for the American C.I.A. suspect that the family name was quietly changed along the way from Andropian. Pictures of the new leader certainly betray non-Slavic features.

Unlike his predecessors, Mr. Andropov is urbane and coolly intellectual, with a taste for music and fine art and a penchant for foreign languages. He can speak and read English, having been tutored by one of the best teachers of Moscow University. He also has a good working knowledge of both German and Hungarian. (In case God's apostle should some day visit the Soviet Union and speak to its top leadership, at least the new leader, Mr. Andropov, would understand him fully in English even though they might be forced to converse diplomatically in each other's home language.)

The new party chief has had a great deal of experience in Eastern European affairs. He was attached to the Soviet Embassy in Budapest, Hungary from 1954 through 1956 (becoming ambassador in the latter year). After the Hungarian revolt was crushed, Andropov returned to Moscow as Control Com-

mittee Secretary in charge of Eastern Europe until 1967. An account in London's SUNDAY TIMES of November 14th gives an insight into the Andropov character:

It was there in Budapest that the first indications came of his complexity, his ability to dissimulate, and his cool, harsh effectiveness in face of crisis. As resistance to Soviet domination gradually developed during 1954 and 1955, the Ambassador was everywhere, giving little jazz parties, entertaining groups of Hungarian intellectuals, expressing quite a lot of sympathy with their discontents...and giving the impression of liberal flexibility which Hungarians now in exile...still remember.... When the crunch came, however, he acted without hesitation. He blandly reassured the Prime Minister, Imre Nagy, that there would be no possible invasion, and by the time the government woke up, the Soviet tanks were already in the city.

In 1967, Mr. Brezhnev asked Mr. Andropov to take charge of the KGB, the Soviet Security Police. At the time of his takeover the KGB was in the midst of a morale problem. His performance in putting the KGB back into shape, according to the TIMES,

has been an almost miraculous balancing act. He has polished up the KGB's gulag-dominated image both inside and outside the Soviet Union. He has powerfully advanced the KGB's representation and status within the Kremlin hierarchy.

Filling Brezhnev's Shoes

Despite his talents and proven characteristics of tough but shrewd leadership, Mr. Andropov has some pretty large shoes to fill. Leonid Brezhnev, while failing to cure the U.S.S.R.'s endemic economic problems, nevertheless presided over the emergence of the Soviet state as a genuine superpower, rivaling the United States.

During the Brezhnev era, Soviet nuclear forces on land grew many times over in power and sophistication. The Soviet Navy "learned to swim," becoming an oceangoing fleet, not just a coastal defense force. Everywhere around the world, Soviet power, backing so-called liberation forces, expanded at the expense of declining Western interests.

Former President Richard Nixon had this to say concerning the late Soviet leader. He was, said Mr. Nixon,

not a madman. He was a realist. If an opponent showed weakness, Brezhnev would take every possible advantage, without scruple. But, when met with firmness, he would compromise. He wanted the world, but he did not want war. If his successor is convinced that we have the strength and the will to resist Soviet aggression, we can avoid both war and defeat without war.

Impact Upon Europe and America

What will Mr. Brezhnev's successor do with the greatly enhanced national power at his disposal? How will he deal with his nation's weaknesses at home and abroad?

The coming months will not rest easily upon the head of the new Soviet leader. The simmering crisis in Eastern Europe, especially in Poland, will not go away. Mr. Andropov will have to call upon all of his knowledge and experience concerning that part of the Soviet Empire in order to deal with the challenges to come.

Polish authorities have felt that the situation in their country is calm enough so that they could release Lech Walesa, the former head of the banned Solidarity labor union, from custody. But looming uneasily over the horizon is the return visit, next June, of Pope John Paul II to Poland. What will happen in the wake of this event?

The biggest impact of the change of power could be upon events in Western Europe. A tough, unresilient boss in the Kremlin could spur attempts on the part of the nations of Western Europe to unite.

Leaders in Western Europe are beginning to get that "hemmed-in" feeling. On the one side, the Soviet Union is determined to press ahead with its military dominance and political leverage. On the other side, the continental Europeans see the United States and Britain beginning to falter in their commitments to the nuclear defense deterrence of the West.

In America's off-year election on November 2, so-called "nuclear freeze" propositions won in eight of the nine states where they were on the ballot. Thus increased pressure is on President Reagan to slow down the improvement of America's nuclear arsenal (upon which the defense of Western Europe depends) and to engage in hasty arms negotiations with the Soviets. In Britain the calls for nuclear disarmament within the ranks of the Labor Party and the Church of England are growing by the week.

Thus, the switch in the political power at the top in the Soviet Union is contributing to the eventual imperative of Western Europe to unite as a separate, biblically-prophesied political, religious and military "third superpower" in this end-time age.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau